

Claim Amendments (Listing):

1-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended) A method for managing authentication and authorization of user access to data applications of a service provider through a wireless communication network, comprising steps of:

authenticating a mobile station of a data application user as a valid mobile station for obtaining communication service through the wireless communication network, at a control node of the wireless communication network;

obtaining from the control node information indicating successful authentication of the user's mobile station;

receiving an identifier associated with the data application user, when the user attempts to access a data application on a server through the wireless communication network;

based on the identifier, checking the information to determine [[if]] whether or not there has been a successful authentication of the user's mobile station at the control node of the wireless communication network;

~~if the~~ in response to a determination [[is]] that there has been a successful authentication of the user's mobile station at the control node of the wireless communication network, using the identifier to determine [[if]] whether or not the user is authorized to access the data application on the server, from among a plurality of data applications accessible through the wireless communication network; and

[[if]] in response to a determination that the user is authorized to access the data application on the server, allowing the user to access the data application on the server from the mobile station via communications through the wireless communication network.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the steps of authenticating, determining authorization of the user and allowing the user to access the data application on the server do not require user input of a password.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein:
the control node is a home location register (HLR) of the wireless communication network; and

the steps of obtaining information indicating successful authentication of the user's mobile station, receiving the identifier associated with the data application user and checking the information to determine [[if]] whether or not there has been a successful authentication are performed in an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server of the wireless communication network.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of obtaining information indicating successful authentication of the user's mobile station from the control node comprises:

periodically querying the HLR for information as to mobile stations that have been authenticated; and

storing identifications of HLR authenticated mobile stations in the AAA server.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of obtaining information indicating successful authentication of the user's mobile station from the control node comprises querying the HLR regarding the user's mobile station upon receiving the identifier associated with the data application user, when the user attempts to access the data application on the server through the wireless communication network.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the data application on the server offers a service for mobile station users from an operator of the wireless communication network.

53. (Currently amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the determination [[if]] whether or not the user is authorized to access the data application on the server comprises determining one of a plurality of available levels of service to which the user is subscribed and whether access to the data application on the server is within the one subscribed level of service.

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the determination [[if]] whether or not the user is authorized to access the data application on the server comprises determining one of a plurality of available levels of service to which the user is subscribed and whether access to the data application on the server is within the one subscribed level of service.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising receiving and validating a password of the user before allowing the user to access the data application on the server from the mobile station via communications through the wireless communication network.

56. (Currently amended) The method of claim 55, wherein the password of the user is the same password that would be validated before granting access to the application on the server if the user attempted access via a network other than the wireless communication network.

57. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a wireless network for providing mobile communication services to and from a plurality of mobile stations;

a control node for authenticating one of the mobile stations of a data application user as a valid mobile station for obtaining communication service through the wireless network;

a data application server, coupled to the wireless network for providing a data application service via the network; and

an authentication and authorization server, wherein the authentication and authorization server is configured for:

(a) obtaining from the control node information indicating successful authentication of the data application user's mobile station;

(b) receiving an identifier associated with the data application user from the data application server, when the user attempts to access the data application service on the data application server through the wireless communication network;

(c) based on the identifier, checking the information to determine [[if]] whether or not there has been a successful authentication of the user's mobile station at the control node of the wireless communication network;

(d) ~~if the~~ in response to determination [[is]] that there has been a successful authentication of the user's mobile station at the control node of the wireless communication network, using the identifier to determine [[if]] whether or not the user is authorized to access the data application on the server, from among a plurality of data applications accessible through the wireless communication network; and

(e) [[if]] in response to a determination that the user is authorized to access the data application on the server, enabling the data application server to permit the user to access the data application service from the mobile station via communications through the wireless communication network.

58. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57, wherein:
the control node comprises a home location register (HLR); and
the authentication and authorization server comprises an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57, wherein:
the data application server is operated by a wireless carrier that operates the wireless network; and
the data application service is a data service offered by the carrier for mobile station users.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the data application server is operated by a party other than a wireless carrier that operates the wireless network.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the data application server is also accessible via a communication network other than the wireless communication network.

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